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In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Serial Number: 10 / 626,892
Appn. Filed: 7/24/2003
Applicant(s): Graham, Craig et al.
Appn. Title: Foam Bun Mold Shim
Examiner/GAU: N/A / 1732

10/27/04
Approved
OmStone
Jacqueline M. Stone, Director
Technology Center 1700

Request to Withdraw as Attorney/Agent of Record

August 3, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir or Madam:

I hereby apply to withdraw as attorney/agent of record in connection with the above-identified application.

The reason for this request is that I have learned that YKK, the assignee of this application, recently received U.S. Patent # 6,684,466 (Nishida) for a child-resistant buckle. Serious questions of patentability and inventorship exist with respect to this patent, because YKK did not inform the Patent Office of the existence of my underlying U.S. Patent # 5,991,985, which it had licensed, and because prototypes I supplied to YKK as early as August 1999 show all the features in many claims of the YKK patent.

The YKK patent may become the subject of re-examination proceedings or litigation, thus creating a conflict of interest for me. The license referred to was executed before I became a patent agent, and is no longer in effect. Moreover, this application is in no way related to the YKK patent or my underlying patent. The situation would personally not affect my prosecution of this application. However, I believe it is important to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest, and thus I am requesting withdrawl.
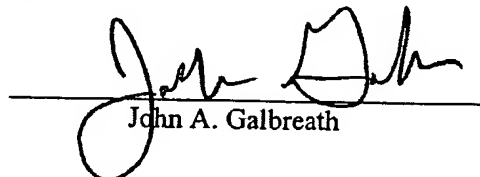
I have duly notified YKK of my intention to withdraw, so that they may timely seek new representation.

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Galbreath
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Certificate of Mailing: I certify that on the date below, this document and referenced attachments, if any, was sent via first-class U.S. mail to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

3 August 2004

John A. Galbreath